

Spy Memoirs Pact Signed, Editor Quits

New York Times News Service

NEW YORK — The World Publishing Co., has signed a contract for the controversial memoirs of Gen. Reinhard Gehlen, West Germany's former intelligence chief—and lost a top editor who played a key role in obtaining them.

Completion of the negotiations that give the company world rights to the memoirs outside Germany for a reported \$500,000 became known Friday, together with conflicting versions of the resignation of James C. Wade, editor-in-chief of the company's adult trade division.

According to publishing sources, Wade resigned after being excluded from the final meeting Tuesday with Gehlen's representative, Volker Hansen. Wade was the first to alert the company to the existence of the memoirs last summer.

In separate interviews, neither Wade nor World's president, Christopher Shaw, would discuss any differences.

But sources at World who asked not to be identified indicated that one reason for Wade's sudden departure was his exclusion from the conclusion of the deal after he had spent four months working on it.

Martin P. Levin, chairman of World, said the deal was concluded Tuesday "when we exchanged a check for the complete manuscript." Levin said he expected the Gehlen book to be ready for publication in the United States next spring.